AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

18. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head receiving section including means for removably attaching said impact head receiving section to said guide sleeve, said impact head receiving section having a distal stop formed at a distal end thereof, and a proximal stop formed at the attachment to said guide sleeve;

an impact head slidably secured within said receiving section, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said receiving section, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said receiving section, said impact head being movable between an extended position and a retracted position, the extended position being limited by said distal stop and the retracted position being limited by said proximal stop;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip attached to said distal end of said impact head, said removable tip including a shank, and an offset section attached to said shank and spaced a lateral distance therefrom, thereby allowing a force to be transmitted to said tip and through said tip which is offset from said longitudinal axis.

19. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, said guide sleeve further having an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head receiving section including means for removably attaching said impact head receiving section to said guide sleeve, said impact head receiving section having a distal stop formed at a distal end thereof, and a proximal stop formed at the attachment to said guide sleeve;

an impact head slidably secured within said receiving section, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said receiving section, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said receiving section, said impact head being movable between an extended position and a retracted position delimited by said distal and proximal stops, respectively;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact

between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip attached to said distal end of said impact head, said removable tip including a shank, an offset section attached to said shank and spaced laterally therefrom, a mount attached to said offset section, and a well formed in said mount, thereby allowing a force to be transmitted to and through said tip which is offset from said longitudinal axis.

20. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, said guide sleeve further having an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head receiving section including means for removably attaching said impact head receiving section to said guide sleeve, said impact head receiving section having a distal stop formed at a distal end thereof, and a proximal stop formed at the attachment to said guide sleeve;

an impact head slidably secured within said receiving section, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said receiving section, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said receiving section, said impact head being movable between an extended position and a retracted position delimited by said distal and proximal stops, respectively;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a

longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip attached to said distal end of said impact head, said removable tip including a pair of fork extensions extending from said distal end of said guide sleeve, each said fork extension having a notch forming a recess at a distal end of the fork extension.

21. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, said guide sleeve further having an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head slidably secured within said longitudinal passageway of said guide sleeve, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said longitudinal passageway, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said guide sleeve;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip having a shank section attached to said distal end of said impact head, a threaded section having a plurality of exposed external threads attached to and extending distally beyond a distal end of said shank section, and said threaded section further having a distal end including an opening formed therethrough and aligned with said longitudinal axis.

22. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head receiving section including means for removably attaching said impact head receiving section to said guide sleeve, said impact head receiving section having a distal stop formed at a distal end thereof, and a proximal stop formed at the attachment to said guide sleeve;

an impact head slidably secured within said receiving section, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said receiving section, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said receiving section, said impact head being movable between an extended position and a retracted position, the extended position being limited by said distal stop and the retracted position being limited by said proximal stop;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact

between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip attached to said distal end of said impact head, said removable tip including a shank, and a pair of tapered extensions extending from a distal end of said shank, said tapered sections having truncated ends.

23. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head receiving section including means for removably attaching said impact head receiving section to said guide sleeve, said impact head receiving section having a distal stop formed at a distal end thereof, and a proximal stop formed at the attachment to said guide sleeve;

an impact head slidably secured within said receiving section, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said receiving section, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said receiving section, said impact head being movable between an extended position and a retracted position, the extended position being limited by said distal stop and the retracted position being limited by said proximal stop;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal

passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip attached to said distal end of said impact head, said removable tip including a shank, and a pry portion connected to said shank, said pry portion having a semi-circular shape bevel formed on a distal end of said pry portion.

24. (Previously Presented) A slide hammer comprising:

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a proximal end, said guide sleeve further having an inner surface defining a longitudinal passageway therein;

an impact head receiving section including means for removably attaching said impact head receiving section to said guide sleeve, said impact head receiving section having a distal stop formed at a distal end thereof, and a proximal stop formed at the attachment to said guide sleeve;

an impact head slidably secured within said receiving section, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said receiving section, and a distal end including an impact extension which extends beyond said distal end of said receiving section, said impact head being movable between an extended position and a retracted position delimited by said distal and proximal stops, respectively;

a plunger inserted through said proximal end of said guide sleeve and into said longitudinal passageway, said plunger having a proximal end which extends proximally beyond said proximal end of said guide sleeve, said guide sleeve and said plunger extending along a

longitudinal axis of said slide hammer, said plunger being slidable within said longitudinal passageway for selective contact with said proximal end of said impact head, wherein the contact between said plunger and said impact head results in a force transmitted to said distal of said impact head; and

a removable tip attached to said distal end of said impact head, said removable tip including a shaft having a distal end including an opening formed therein, a securing screw received in said opening, and at least a pair of disks placed between said securing screw and said distal end of said shaft.

25. (New) A method of transferring force in a directionally and force controlled manner to a targeted object, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a device including a guide sleeve with a longitudinal passageway therethrough, and a stop positioned at a distal end of said guide sleeve;

providing an impact head received in said longitudinal passageway and placed adjacent said distal end thereof, said impact head having a proximal end which remains within said longitudinal passageway, said proximal end being defined by a slide portion that is positioned in close proximity with said longitudinal passageway, and said impact head further having an impact extension which extends distally beyond said distal end of said guide sleeve;

inserting a plunger in said longitudinal passageway;

attaching a removable tip to said impact extension;

orienting said guide sleeve in a direction for which force is to be directed toward the object to be contacted;

sliding the plunger in the guide sleeve at a desired speed to contact the impact head with a desired force;

sliding the impact head in response to the forced transferred from the plunger and maintaining at least said slide portion of said impact head within the guide sleeve, said distal stop defining a limit of travel for said impact head; and

contacting the object with the removable tip.

26. (New) A method, as claimed in Claim 25, further including the steps of:

removing said removable tip;

attaching a second removable tip to said impact extension;

sliding the plunger in the guide sleeve at a desired speed to contact the impact head with a desired force;

sliding the impact head in response to the force transferred from the plunger and maintaining at least said slide portion of said impact head within the guide sleeve, said distal stop defining the limit of travel for said impact head; and

contacting the object with the second removable tip.

27. (New) A method of transferring force in a directionally and force controlled manner to a targeted object, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a plunger;

providing means for slidably receiving said plunger, said means for receiving having a stop position at a distal end thereof;

providing a means for transferring force from said plunger to a targeted object exterior of said means for slidably receiving, said means for transferring force having a slide portion remaining in said means for slidably receiving;

inserting the plunger in said means for slidably receiving;

attaching a removable tip to said means for transferring force, said removable tip being placed exteriorly of said means for slidably receiving;

sliding the plunger in the means for slidably receiving at a desired speed to contact the means for transferring force with a desired force;

sliding the means for transferring force in response to the force transferred from the plunger and maintaining at least said slide portion within the means for slidably receiving, said distal stop defining the limit of travel for said means for transferring force; and

contacting the object with the removable tip.

28. (New) A method, as claimed in Claim 27, further including the steps of:

removing said removable tip;

attaching a second removable tip to said means for transferring force;

sliding the plunger in the means for slidably receiving at a desired speed to contact the means for transferring force with a desired force;

sliding the means for transferring force in response to the force transferred from the plunger and maintaining at least said slide portion within said means for slidably receiving; and

contacting the object with the second removable tip.

29. (New) A method of transferring force in a directionally and force controlled manner to a targeted object, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a guide sleeve having a longitudinal passageway;

providing an impact head having a slide portion and an impact extension;

providing a head receiving section, said head receiving section having an opening at one end thereof and sized for receiving said impact extension;

inserting said impact extension through said opening in said head receiving section;

attaching said head receiving section to a distal end of said guide sleeve, said head receiving section including means for removably attaching said head receiving section to said guide sleeve;

inserting a plunger in said longitudinal passageway of said guide sleeve;

attaching a removable tip to said impact extension, said removable tip being exterior of said head receiving section and said guide sleeve;

orienting said guide sleeve in a direction for which force is desired to be directed toward the object to be contacted;

sliding the plunger in the guide sleeve at a desired speed to contact the slide portion with a desired force;

sliding the impact head in response to the force transferred from the plunger and maintaining said slide portion within said head receiving section, said head receiving section having a distal stop defining a limit of travel for said impact head; and

contacting the object with the removable tip.

30. (New) A method, as claimed in Claim 29, further including the steps of:

detaching the head receiving section from said distal end of said guide sleeve; and

reattaching the head receiving section to said distal end of said guide sleeve wherein said detaching step allows a user to clean, service or replace said impact head.